



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

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VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

August 25, 2022

TO: Service List, dated August 1, 2022

FROM: Melanie Bachman, Executive Director *NAB*

RE: **PETITON NO. 1533** – ReNew Developers, LLC petition for a declaratory ruling, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §4-176 and §16-50k, for the proposed construction, maintenance and operation of a customer-side 4.99-megawatt fuel cell facility and associated equipment to be located at 42 Old Amston Road, Colchester, Connecticut.

Comments have been received from the Council on Environmental Quality on August 25, 2022.
A copy of the comments is attached for your review.

MB/IN/laf

c: Council Members



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

August 25, 2022

Keith Ainsworth
Acting Chair

Alicea Charamut

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Paul Aresta
Executive Director

Melanie Bachman, Executive Director
Connecticut Siting Council
Ten Franklin Square
New Britain, CT 06051

PETITON NO. 1533 – ReNew Developers, LLC (Petitioner) proposed construction, maintenance and operation of a customer-side 4.99-megawatt fuel cell facility and associated equipment to be located at 42 Old Amston Road, Colchester, Connecticut.

Dear Ms. Bachman:

The Council on Environmental Quality (Council) offers the following comments regarding Petition 1533.

1.) Wetlands

The Petitioner states that “the Project’s limits of disturbance will maintain a buffer to wetlands while the fenced Facility will be ±87 feet from wetlands” and that “the nearest construction activity, associated with construction of the stormwater management basin at the southwestern extent of the Project Area, is approximately 41 feet from the wetland boundary”. The Council recommends that the Petitioner utilize a minimum 100-foot buffer around all identified wetlands proximate to the proposed facility.

2.) Wildlife

The Petitioner noted that the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Natural Diversity Database (NDDDB) identified two Special Concern Species proximate to the proposed site: wood turtle (*Glyptemys insculpta*) and spotted turtle (*Clemmys guttata*). Further, the NDDDB identified certain protection measures to avoid incidental mortality and help ensure the continued conservation of these turtle species. The Council recommends that if approved, the proposed mitigation measures identified by the NDDDB in their May 12, 2022 letter, including but not limited to the use of exclusionary fencing that is at least 20 inches tall, be conditions of approval.

The Council’s comments above address only certain elements of the materials provided by the Petitioner at the time of the filing. Additional information can become evident through comments offered by other parties and during the Siting Council’s administrative hearing process. The absence of comment(s) by this Council about any Petition or Application, or any aspects thereof, may not be interpreted as an endorsement of a proposed project, or its components or that this Council might not have comments or concerns on more specific issues raised during the hearing process.

Thank you for your consideration of the Council’s comments.

Sincerely,

Paul Aresta
Executive Director